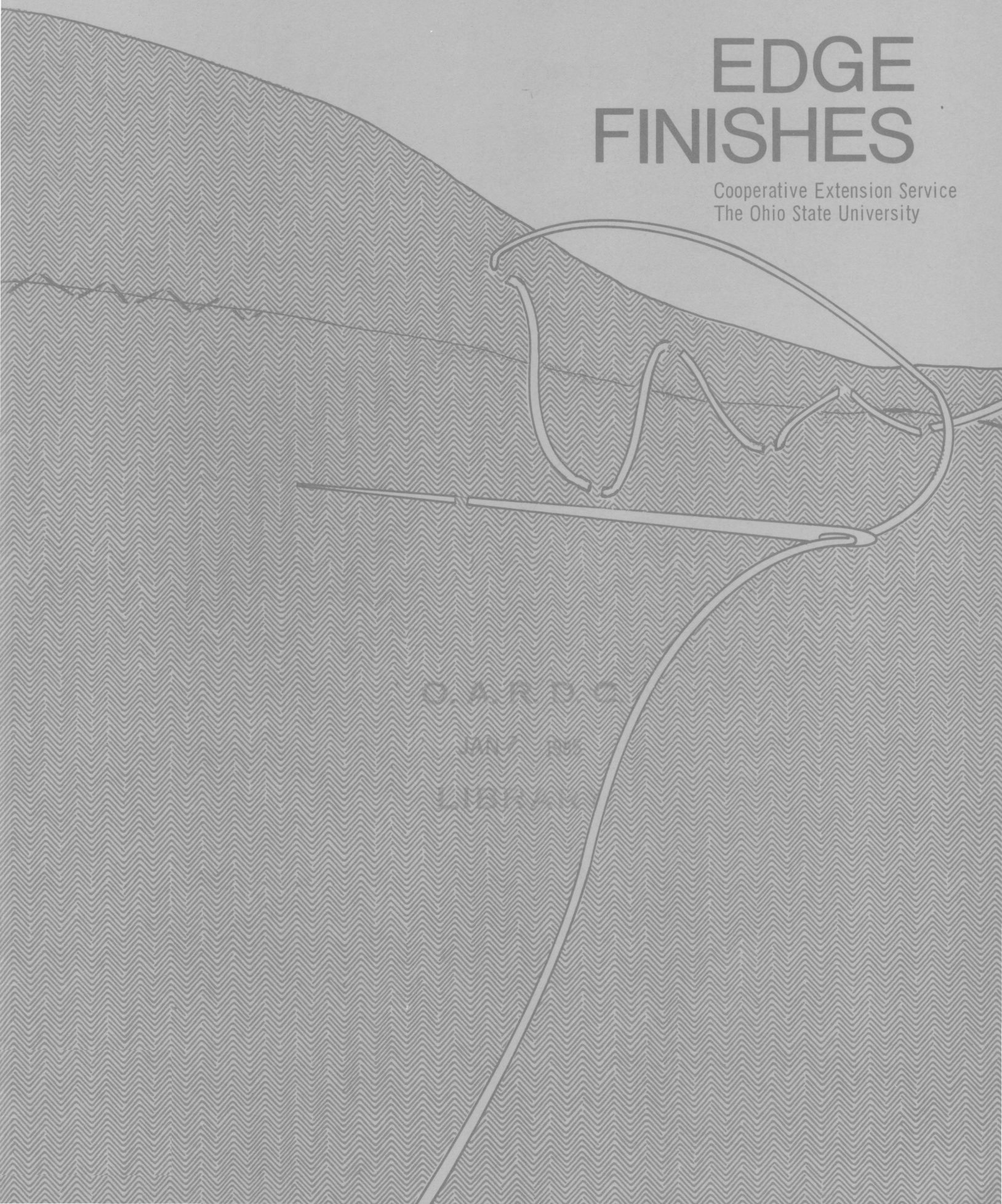


# EDGE FINISHES

Cooperative Extension Service  
The Ohio State University



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# Edge Finishes

By  
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Never underestimate the importance of hems, facings, and bindings to the overall appearance of your garment. Take the hem of a dress for instance; it can “make or break” your garment. A hemline correctly placed helps to

give your dress a smart appearance. One that is straight and even contributes to your neat, well-groomed look. Furthermore, a well-made hemline adds to the value of your dress.

## Planning Your Finish

Hems, facings and bindings are all edge finishes, but they are quite different. The chief differences are:

**Hems.**—Material is allowed for a hem when cutting out a garment. It is then turned and finished according to the fabric and use. A hem shows on one side only.

**Facings.**—Facings are cut separately and sewn to garment edges. They show only on the side of the garment to which they are turned.

**Bindings.**—Bindings are separate pieces that are sewed over edges. They show about equally on both sides of the edge being bound.

Choosing the edge finishes you will use depends on the pattern and fabric you have selected. Despite the help the pattern gives, you need to visualize the way your finished dress will look on you. If you make pattern alterations or change the kind of fabric from that recommended, you may need a different width or kind of edge finish. Thus, your choice of edge finishes should be based on these three things: (1) the kind of garment, (2) the shape of the edge, and (3) the kind and quality of your material.

**1. The Kind of Garment.**—For children’s school and play clothes, and clothes for active sports and home wear, edge finishes need to be strong. Flat bindings, narrow machine stitched hems, and flat facings are easy to maintain. For better garments where appearance is more important than strength, hand sewing is necessary to make neat hems and good looking bindings. Small stitches make the finish as invisible as possible on the right side.

**2. The Shape of the Edge.**—It is almost impossible to put a wide hem around a curved or circular edge even though it may seem desirable to do so. With today’s stretchable knits, though, it is now possible to put a narrow hem

even on inward curves. You can make shaped facings to fit any edge—curved or angular—but straight and bias facings are more limited in their use. You can shape narrow bias bindings to curves, but they are more difficult to handle on sharp angles like V and square necklines. Straight facings and bindings must be mitered to fit angles.

**3. The Kind and Quality of Your Material.**—Is your material transparent? Thick or thin? Rough or smooth?

On transparent or sheer fabrics, French bindings and rolled hems look best because raw or cut edges of facings show through to the right side of the garment.

On non-transparent, medium-weight materials, self facings or bindings are suitable.

On heavy or bulky fabrics, you must make every effort to keep the edge finish flat and smooth. Here are ways to do it:

- On fabrics that do not ravel much, omit the second turn of the edge of a hem, binding or facing on the wrong side of the garment. Instead, pink or overcast the edge as needed. Some fabrics, especially many knits, may require no finish.
- Use a lighter-weight fabric for a wrong-side facing or to replace a second turn on the edge of a hem. Ribbon binding and bias fold are made for this purpose.
- “Step” seams by cutting away about half of one of the seam allowances. This is done to taper the thickness and distribute the bulk. An example of a stepped seam is an enclosed seam of a facing (Fig. 13-B-4). The seam allowance next to the side of the garment that shows on the outside should be the wider one.



# Hems

When you are making a garment, the hem is about the last finish to be made. Before hemming, put a dress or a skirt on a hanger and let it hang for a while—at least overnight. This will allow for any natural sagging of the fabric.

## Good Skirt Hems

Good skirt hems should be:

- An even distance from the floor all around.
- Inconspicuous on the right side of the garment.
- Uniform in width.
- Wide or narrow enough to give the right weight to the skirt.
- Durable, neat, and well-pressed.
- Flat and smooth. Any fullness at the top should be evenly distributed.

On smooth materials of medium weight, a double fold hem is satisfactory; on others, a single fold hem is better. The raw edge of the single fold hem is finished with seam binding or bias fold tape. On fabrics that do not fray easily, the tape may be omitted and the raw edge pinked and stitched, or overcasting may be used.

Use thread that is the same color as the fabric. Select a fine sewing needle to make the hand hemming stitches you plan to use.

## Wide Hems

1. Slip your dress on over the undergarments you plan to wear with it. Also put on the shoes you will use with the dress.

2. Decide on the location of your hemline. Then have someone help you measure the distance from the floor up all the way around the skirt. For greater accuracy, the person marking moves rather than one on whom garment is being measured. Use a skirt marker and pins or chalk to help you get an accurate measurement. The measuring device must be at right angles to the floor. Place the hem marks or pins on the garment about 3 or 4 inches apart and parallel to the floor. These pins or marks show you where to make the first turn of the hem.

3. Turn the dress wrong side out. Working on a table or ironing board, turn the hem along the marked line and pin it. Baste close to the fold (Fig. 1-A). Transfer the pins to the top of the hem (Fig. 1-B).

4. Try on dress again. Is the hem line even and the length becoming? You may have to make a few adjustments.

5. Make width of hem even. If it is necessary to press the hem, crease the folded edge lightly. Using a measuring gauge, measure the desired width of the hem from the crease; mark this width all around the hem with pins or chalk (Fig. 1-C). Patterns for circular skirts usually allow for hems about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. Straight and gored skirt patterns allow  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 or more inches. The width to use depends upon the weight of the material, the shape of the skirt, and the current fashion.

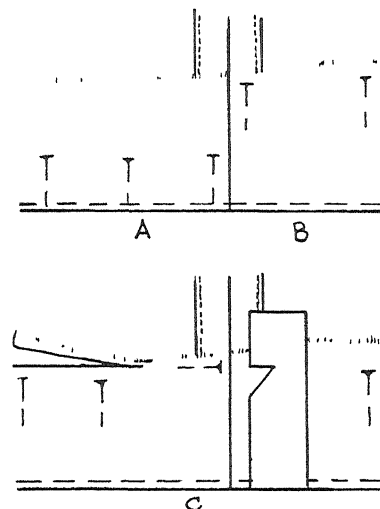


FIG. 1—Steps in making a hem.

6. Cut off extra material where the hem is too wide (Fig. 1-C).

7. Adjust fullness at top of gored or circular hems. You can ease in only a little of this fullness as you make the final finish. Easing larger amounts of fullness is usually done before you finish the top edge of the hem with ribbon binding or bias fold. Here are the ways to ease in fullness:

**Pleats.**—Place tiny pleats where fullness occurs and taper them toward the lower edge of the hem (Fig. 2-A). Several small pleats give better results than one large pleat. Usually, you will turn the pleats toward the side seams and away from the center front and center back of the garment.

**Gathers.**—Make gathers by hand or machine stitch about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the cut edge. In either case, draw thread up to make top of hem fit skirt (Fig. 2-B). Adjust gathers for a smooth, even effect, matching seams and straight grain of fabric in hem and skirt.

**Shrinking Fullness from Wool Fabrics.**—Gather top edge of hem to fit skirt. Place a piece of paper or a heavy cloth between the skirt and the hem. Put a heavy, damp cloth covered with a thin dry one over the gathers. Steam, using a hot iron. Move the iron gently at right angles to the hem; that is, across its width (Fig. 2-C). Press lightly, using a patting motion, and keep the iron moving. The full edge of

hems will shrink to fit the skirt. Never press wool until it is dry and harsh; leave a little moisture in it.

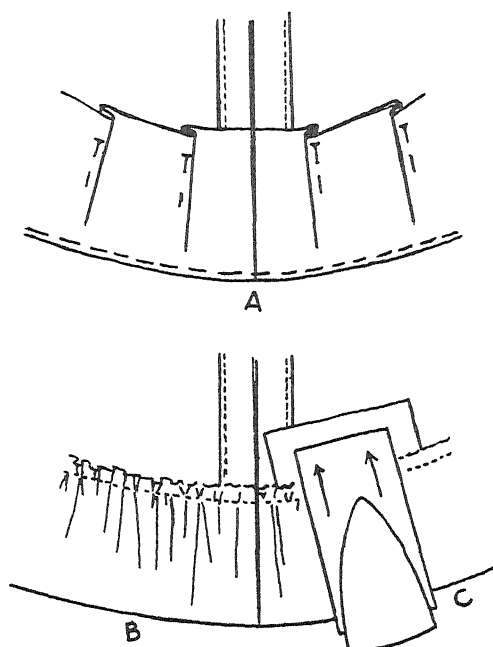
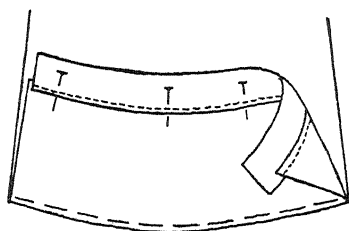


FIG. 2—Ways to ease in fullness on a hem.

8. Finish the hem. Use a double fold hem on light-and medium-weight cotton fabrics. Turn the top edge of the hem about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to the wrong side. Crease and press or baste or machine stitch this fold, then zig zag stitch on machine or hand hem it to the skirt.

FIG. 3—Single fold hem faced with bias fold or seam binding.



Use a single fold hem on bulky or thick materials and on those fabrics that are likely to show an impression on the right side when pressed. Turn the hem only once and face the top edge with bias fold or seam binding (Fig. 3). Machine stitch the fold or binding to the top edge of the hem, then hand stitch binding or bias fold to dress. If fabric shows only a slight tendency to ravel, you may catch-stitch (See page 16) the hem to the dress and omit the seam binding or you may pink and stitch the edge and then use a running-hemming stitch to attach the top edge of the hem to the garment.

If you like the finished look of stretch lace, the hem may be less obvious on the right side if the hem rather than the lace edge is caught to the garment. To prevent rolling of the stretch lace, apply by fusing or stitching the top edge of the lace to the raw edge of the hem.

## Narrow Hems

(About  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide or less)

Narrow hems are generally used to hem ties, scarves, sashes, ruffles, and aprons. They are sometimes used on circular skirts, as on full-length housecoats, party dresses, or heavy denim sports dresses.

### Flat Hems

Make a double fold hem of the desired width. Crease, pin and baste if necessary. Finish in one of the following ways:

- Stitch once on the sewing machine. The stitching is done from the wrong side and on the edge of the top turn of the hem. Fig. 4-A-1 shows this finish on the wrong side; 4-A-2 shows how the right side should look.
- Stitch twice on the sewing machine (Fig. 4-B). Two rows of stitching give added strength to the hem and serve as a trimming, too. Make a double fold hem on the wrong side. The hem should be turned up a few threads wider than you wish your stitching on the right side to be. Baste and press hem before stitching it. When stitching on the right side of the garment, sew along the bottom turn of the hem as close to the edge of the

FIG. 4-A—Single row of machine stitching on a double fold hem.

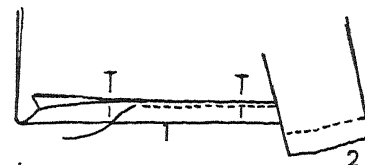


FIG. 4-B—Double fold hem stitched twice.

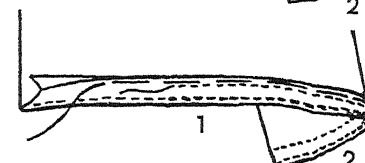


FIG. 4-C—Slip-stitched double fold hem.



garment as possible (Fig. 4-B-1). Make the second row of stitching above the first stitching. The second row will be near the upper fold of the hem (Fig. 4-B-2).

- Hand sew with slip-stitch (See page 16) or slant hemming. Stay stitch on sewing machine along cut edge if it is off-grain to keep it from stretching. Turn this edge under  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to the wrong side. Make the second turn of the hem and press. Slip-stitch along the top of the hem. Fig. 4-C-1 shows the wrong side, 4-C-2 the right side of a hem with a slip-stitch finish. If you sew it with slant hemming, see page 16 for directions on how to slant hem.

## Hems on Knit Curves

Knit stretches. Thus narrow hems can be made flat even on inward curves such as armholes and necklines. Unless the knit ravels, all you need to do is to turn the seam allowance to the wrong side, stretch the outer edge and stitch it in place.

First stay stitch the curve almost on the hem line—just a little toward the raw edge from the seamline. Press the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance to the wrong side, stretching the outer edge. The stay stitching will be on the hem side (Fig. 5). Topstitch through both the garment and the hem one or more times. If you did not stitch enough rows to use all the seam allowance, trim the excess close to the last stitching (Fig. 6).

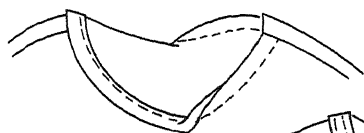


FIG. 5

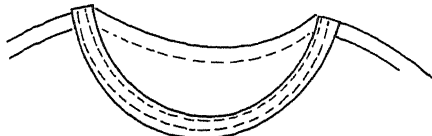


FIG. 6

## Rolled Hems

The rolled hem is used for handkerchiefs, collars, infants' and children's clothing, undergarments, and "dress-up" dresses.

Hold the cut edge between the left thumb and forefinger and roll it to the wrong side of the fabric. If you want an inconspicuous finish, slip-stitch the rolled edge to the garment or article (Fig. 7). Keep the hem rolled ahead of your sewing by about 2 inches. When you make the hem on an off-grain or bias edge, first make a row of machine stitching close to the fabric edge to keep it from stretching.

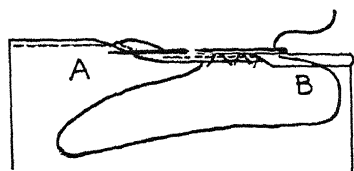


FIG. 7—Rolled hem.

## Horsehair Braid Hems

Horsehair braid is used to add stiffness to the lower edge of a garment, particularly formals. It makes a nice edge finish for sheer fabrics such as organdy or net.

Mark the hemline and trim excess fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch below the mark. Lap the bottom edge (the top edge has a special thread for drawing up to fit circular and shaped skirt edges) of the braid over the  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch extension to the hemline and topstitch.

The braid is put on the right side of the fabric. Turn the braid to the wrong side of the garment. If the braid is narrow, again topstitch along the lower edge, through the fold of the skirt and the braid. Catch the upper edge of the braid to the seams. If a wide braid is used, omit the second row of topstitching and hand hem the upper edge of the braid to the skirt.

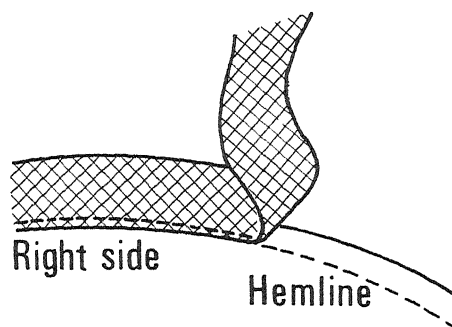


FIG. 8—Horsehair braid hem.

## Fused Hems

Fusing hems is the use of an adhesive web or fusible to hold the hem in place without stitches. Pretest using fusible on a scrap of your fashion fabric. Check appearance of sample hem, observing any changes in texture, color, or hand. Check the bond. This technique is not successful on all fabrics.

Prepare hem by marking, trimming, reducing excess fullness and finishing raw edge as needed. Use fusible in strip form or cut bonding sheets into strips. Position fusible between fabric layers or hem,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the cut edge (or as directed). Fuse, carefully pressing rather than gliding the iron back and forth. Follow manufacturer's directions for fusing since products and their application vary (Fig. 9).

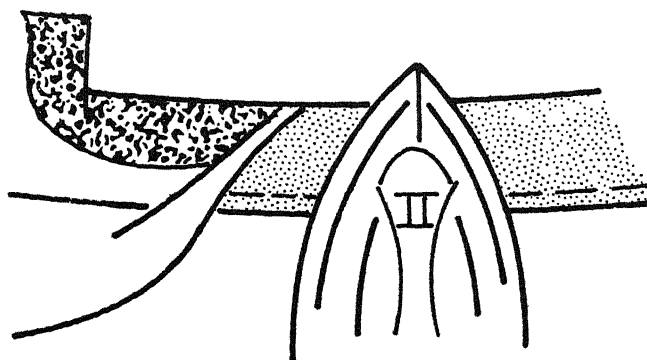


FIG. 9.

# Special Hem Treatments

## Hems and Facings

When you use two hems, or a hem and a facing, to finish a corner, it is generally necessary to remove extra overlapping fabric to get a neat, flat finish.

First, fold the horizontal or crosswise hem; crease or press lightly and pin in place. Next, fold the vertical or up-and-down hem or facing; pin and crease lightly. Mark with chalk, pins, or basting where the overlapped edges meet (Fig. 10-A).

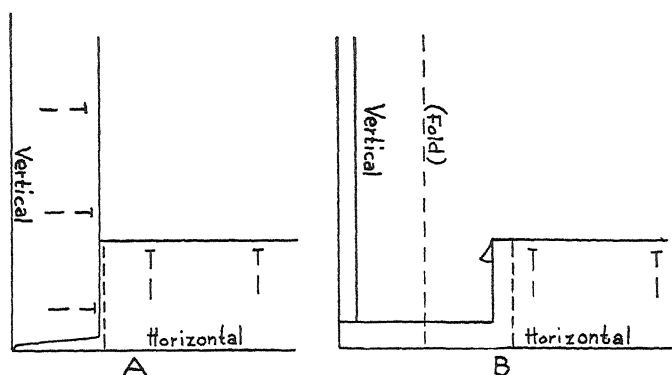


FIG. 10—Removing bulk from overlapping hems.

Remove pins and open the vertical hem. Cut away the horizontal hem, leaving a seam's width above the fold of the horizontal hem and a seam's width to the inside of the marks on the hem (Fig. 10-B).

Crease the vertical hem in position and slip-stitch the edges of the corner to the horizontal hem.

## Hems and Seams

Hems will lie flatter and look neater if the part of a seam included in a hem is left unfinished and pressed open. Clip the seam allowances at the top of the hem if needed (Fig. 11-A-1).

Clip the seam allowances at the turn of the hem (Fig. 11-A-2), and trim them diagonally toward the seam at the edge of the garment (Fig. 11-A-3). It is desirable to step the seam allowances within the hem (Fig. 11-B).

## Hems and Pleats

Figure 11-C shows a seam at the back fold of a pleat. Turn and finish hems before you press pleats.

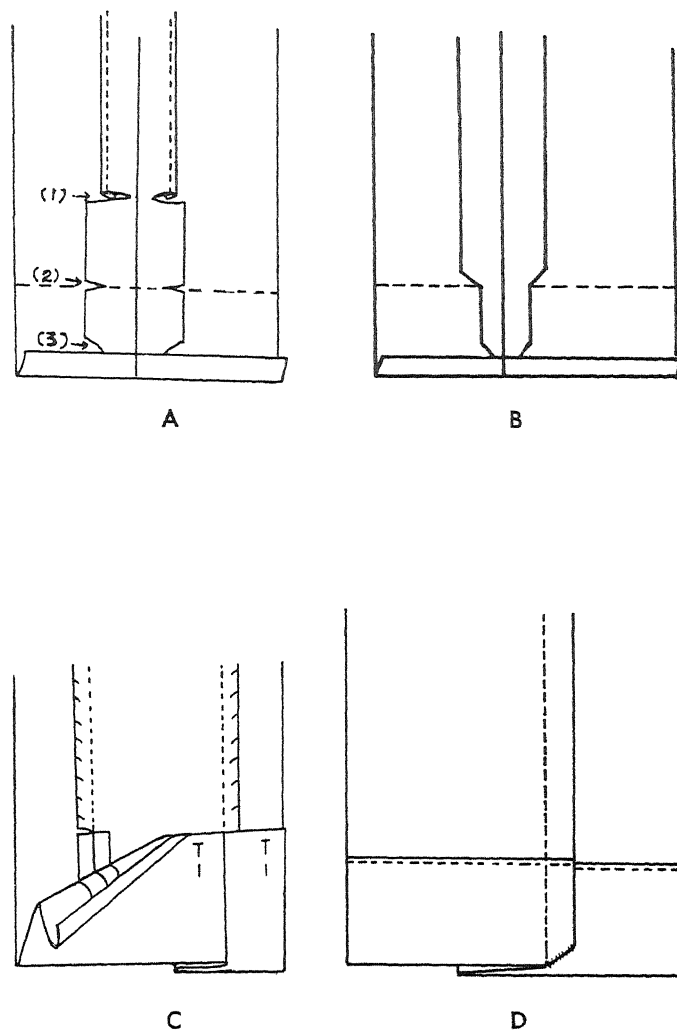


FIG. 11—Seams within hems look neater if properly treated.

Fig. 11-D shows another method on a pleat with a seam, especially for thick fabrics. In this method, you finish the hem before completely stitching the pleat seam. First, stitch seam in pleat leaving open the last ten inches, more or less, from the bottom edge. Complete the garment including the hem. Be sure that the hem edges at the open part of the pleat seam are even. Next, pin and stitch the pleat seam, stitching through the finished hem. Miter lower corner of seam allowances and whipstitch together. For very bulky fabrics which do not ravel, the corner can be trimmed and whipstitched firmly together.

## Mitering Corners on Hems

Mitering corners is an excellent way to remove bulk in a hem thus keeping a flat, smooth edge.

Fold the hems on both sides of the corner the desired width and crease the fabric firmly. Pin the hems to the garment. Place pins on both sides of the corner, coming as close as 1 inch from the corner (Fig. 12-A-1). Draw out the fabric enclosed in the corner of the hems and make a diagonal crease from the inside to the outside of the corner (Fig. 12-A-2). Remove pins and open out hems. Cut away fabric to the outside of the diagonal crease; be sure to leave a seam allowance (about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch) for finishing.

The seam may be finished by either of the following methods:

- Put the right sides of the fabric together and stitch a plain seam on the diagonal crease. Press edges open and turn corner back to original position.

- The hems may be folded back in position. This leaves one side of the diagonal seam exposed. Tuck this edge to the underside of the diagonal fold and sew by hand using the slip-stitch or the slanting hem stitch. In this case, the seam edges are turned in the same direction.

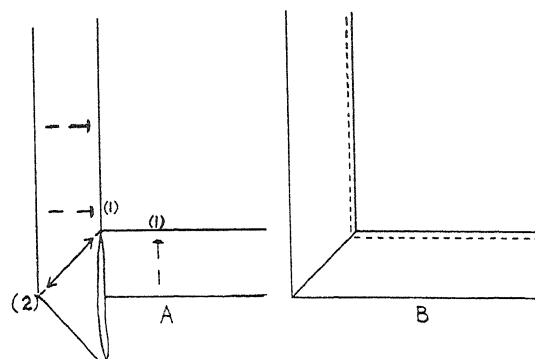


FIG. 12—Mitering corners on hems.

Fig. 12-B shows the finished mitered corner with the hems also stitched in place.

## Facings

### Fitted or Shaped Neck Facing

Follow your pattern directions to cut, put together, and attach a neck facing. However, you do not need a pattern to cut a facing that fits a neckline or any other shaped edge. To cut a facing without a pattern, match the grain of the facing fabric with that of the garment. Cut the facing the exact size and shape of the garment edge. You can make it any width you want.

Since a fitted facing is cut exactly like the garment, this is an easy way to obtain a flat, smooth edge finish on a curve. It can be an outward or inward curve or even a mixture of the two as in a cardigan neckline.

Stitch shoulder seams in blouse and shoulder seams in facing. Stay stitch around neck of dress to prevent stretching (Fig. 13-A-1). Leave the outer edge unfinished (Fig. 13-C) or finish it as you desire—turn and stitch (Fig. 13-A), overcast (Fig. 13-D), zig zag or bind. Consider your fabric and skill in selecting an appropriate method. Place right side of facing on right side of garment; match seams and grain of fabric. Pin and stitch on seam line around the neck.

Before you turn the facing to the wrong side of the garment, cut off the corners of angled seams (Figs. 13-A-3 and 13-B-3). Clip the seam around a round neck (Fig.

13-B) and at the angles of a square- or V-shaped neck (Figs. 13-C and 13-D). Notch the seam allowance on an outward curve to remove excess fabric (Fig. 13-E). This will prevent bulkiness within the collar when it is turned.

Step all enclosed seams. (See page 3 plus Fig. 13-B-4).

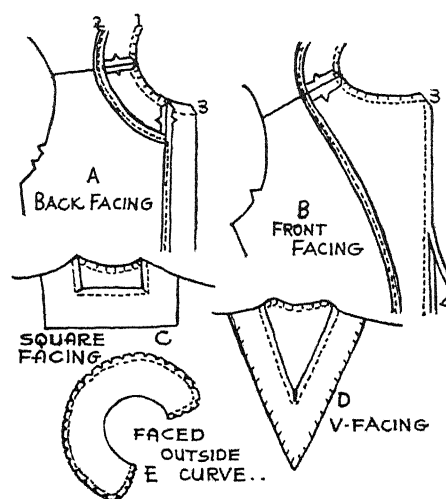


FIG. 13—Seams, curves, and angles need special treatment to give smooth finish.



Turn the facing on the line of stitching. This stitching should be exactly on the edge of the garment or rolled under a thread or two to the wrong side so that it does not show on the right side. Stitching the seam allowance to the facing just inside the seam line helps prevent the edge stitching from rolling back to the right side. Tack the facing to the inside of the garment at darts, waistline, and shoulder seams. Fasteners sewed through a facing also help hold it in place.

## Straight Facing

Cut the strip of fabric to be used for the facing on the straight of the grain. Baste or pin the right side of the facing to the right side of the garment if the facing is to show on the wrong side of the garment; place the right side of the facing to the wrong side of the garment for a right side facing.

Stitch a seam's width from the edge. Turn facing on this line of stitching. On the opposite edge of the facing, crease under a seam's width and stitch. This edge may then be tacked to the garment for a wrong side facing. When the facing is turned to the right side, it is usually stitched flat to the garment by the sewing machine. When a straight facing is used on a V- or square-shaped neckline, miter the corners to shape them and remove bulk (See Fig. 16).

A straight facing is difficult to use on more than a slight curve unless you are working with a knit. In that case, use a straight facing rather than a bias one.

## Bias Facing

Use bias facings on curved or straight edges of undergarments, dresses, and household articles.

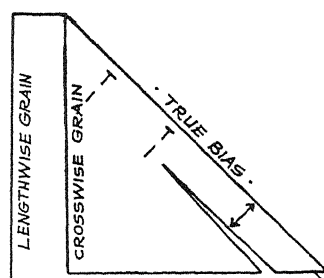


FIG. 14—Cutting a true bias strip.

Cut the facing on the true bias (Fig. 14). On straight edges, apply the facing as you would a straight facing. On curved edges, shape the facing with an iron to fit the curve. To insure a flat finish on curved edges, the width of the facing may need to be limited.

When applying a bias facing to an inward curve, ease the fabric as you stitch it to the cut edge so there will be enough room for the outer edge to stretch. When sewing it to an outward curve, stretch the bias so there will not be too much fullness on the inner edge to make a smooth finish.

## Bias Fold as Facing

Use commercial bias fold as an edge finish on undergarments, house dresses, and aprons.

Turn the edge to be faced  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to the right side of the garment and pin or baste (Fig. 15-A). Cover this fold with the bias strip so that all of the bias fold shows on the right side of the garment. Pin and stitch both edges flat to the garment (Fig. 15-B).

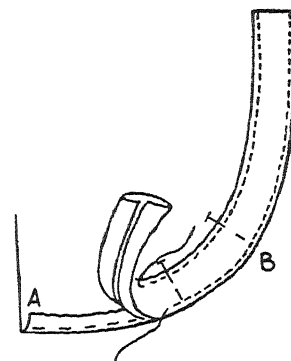


FIG. 15—Commercial bias fold as a facing.

## Mitering Corners With Facings

Shape the straight or bias facing to the corner of the fabric, right sides together. Pin it in place. At the point of the corner, snip the facing in about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (Fig. 16-A-1) and ease it to fit the corner of the fabric. Adjust pins. Make a diagonal crease from the point to the opposite side of the facing (Fig. 16-A-2). Crease firmly. Cut away material above the crease, leaving  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch for a seam. Stitch a plain seam on the diagonal crease and press edges open. Stitch facing to garment (Fig. 16-A-3). Trim away seam allowance, cutting diagonally across point of corner. Turn facing to wrong side of garment and sew the free facing edge to the garment (Fig. 16-B).

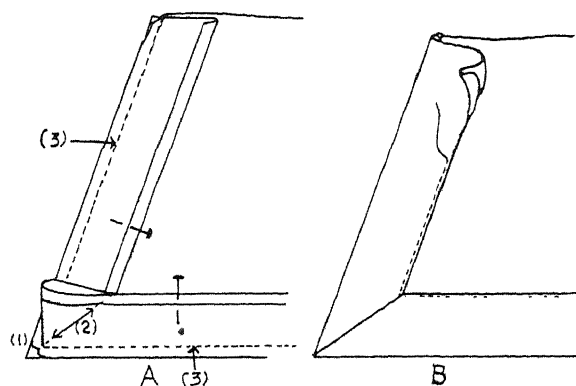


FIG. 16—Stitch and remove excess on mitered corner of facing.

# Bindings

Bindings may be cut on either the straight or bias of a fabric. In woven fabrics, bindings usually are cut on the bias so they can be put on shaped edges more easily. However, a binding cut on the straight would be adequate to bind a straight edge. Bindings in knit fabrics are usually cut on the straight.

A bias binding or knit binding can be used if kept narrow even on a complete circle such as for a pocket. If there is not a lot of curve, a wide binding is possible. The

secret is to stretch and ease the strip when necessary to maintain smoothness and flatness.

For a binding you do just the opposite as you do for a facing. Stretch the strip on an inward curve as the folded edge of the binding needs to be smaller than the stitched edge. On an outward curve, ease the strip when stitching as the outer folded edge will have to be larger than the stitched edge.

## Dressmakers' Bias Or Rolled Binding

Cut a true bias strip (Fig. 14) that is twice the width of the desired finished binding plus two seam allowances. Place the right side of the binding against the right side of the garment; baste and stitch. Crease binding against line of stitching. Turn in the raw edge on the opposite side of the binding. Fold binding strip over the edge of the garment. Hem by hand or machine.

When hemming by hand, fold the binding over the edge so that it is the same width or slightly narrower on the wrong side of the garment than it is on the right side (Fig. 17-A). Hem on or above the first line of stitching.

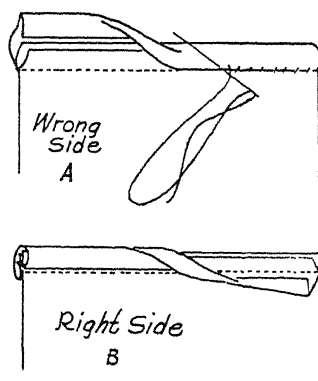


FIG. 17—Dressmakers' bias or rolled binding.

When machine stitching, fold the binding over the edge to the wrong side so that it is slightly wider than it is on the right side. Baste in position, then stitch on the right side on the first line of stitching, close to the rolled edge of the binding, but not on it (Fig. 17-B). This catches the binding on the wrong side of the garment.

## French Binding

You may choose to use a double binding for thin or loosely-woven material. Cut a bias strip four times the width of desired finished binding plus two seam allowances. Fold bias strip down the middle with the right side of the fabric out; baste or press.

Place the binding on the right side of the garment with all cut edges matching. Baste and stitch on the seam line. Trim seam if necessary. Turn bias to wrong side of garment.

For hand hemming, the binding should be slightly narrower on the wrong side of the garment than it is on the right side. Hand hem edge of binding on or above the first line of stitching (Fig. 18-A).

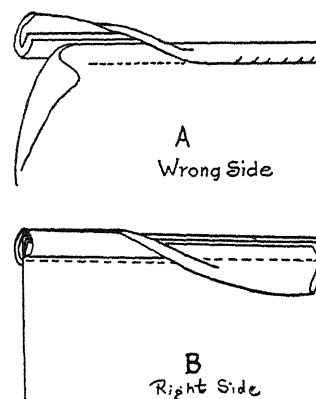


FIG. 18—French binding.

For machine hemming, fold the binding on the wrong side of the garment slightly wider than it is on the right side. Baste. Stitch on the right side of the garment on the first line of stitching; close to the binding, but not on it (Fig. 18-B). This catches the binding on the wrong side of the garment.

## Flat Binding

Use flat binding on undergarments, aprons, house dresses, children's play clothes, and household articles.

Use commercial double fold bias. If double fold is not available, use either bias fold or cut a true bias strip (Fig. 14), and fold and press to resemble double fold bias binding.

Slip binding over edge, with the wider side of the binding on the wrong side of the garment. Baste or pin. Stitch on the right side near the edge of the binding.

The finish will wear better if you stay stitch the edge of the garment before applying the binding (Fig. 19-A).

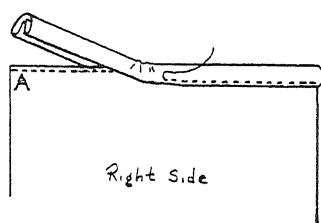


FIG. 19—Use double fold bias for a flat binding.

## Hong Kong Binding

Bias bound or Hong Kong finish can be used as a seam finish or an edge finish for facings or hems.

Cut bias strips 1-inch wide from lining fabric or press open commercial doublefold bias tape. Match edges, placing bias against right side of fabric. Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from raw edge.

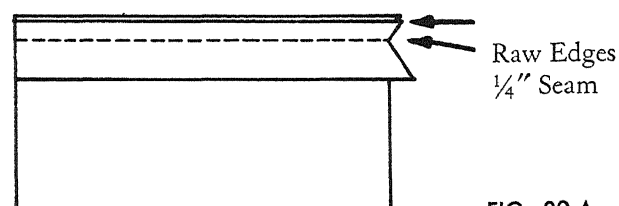


FIG. 20-A.

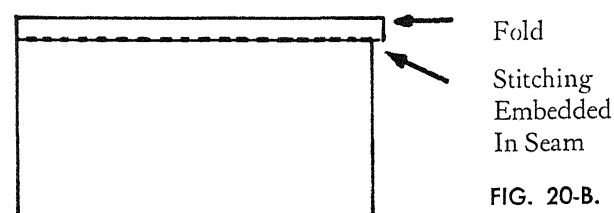


FIG. 20-B.

Trim seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch. Fold bias to wrong side, encasing the raw edges. Stitch in the "ditch" of the seam. This stitching from the right side will secure bias.

## Knit Binding

A knit binding may be used in a manner similar to the Hong Kong binding technique for straight edges. You also can easily bind knit edges such as curved necklines or armholes.

First, cut a strip of knit fabric in the direction of greatest stretch, usually the crosswise. Make it  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 inches wide and about the same length as the edge to be bound. Match the edges of binding and garment, placing right sides together. Stitch in place, stretching the knit binding slightly on the inward curve so the binding will follow the neckline curve. On an outward curve the binding would be eased.

The depth of the seam allowance will depend on the desired finished binding. Often  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch is used. Just be sure stitching is exactly even so binding will be the same width.

Next, fold trim over the raw edge encasing the seam allowance. Pin in place, stretching or easing the outer edge of binding as necessary so it will lie flat. From the right side, "stitch in the ditch". Trim any excess binding close to the stitching on the wrong side (Fig. 21-A).

For an enclosed curve, such as armholes, sew binding ends together with  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 inch seam to form a circle. The binding will be smaller than the opening. Divide binding into quarter sections. Mark with pins. Divide and pin mark garment armhole or opening into quarters. With right sides together, match bindings and garment edges and quarter pin markings. Stitch, stretching bindings to fit garment curve. Complete as above (Fig. 21-B).

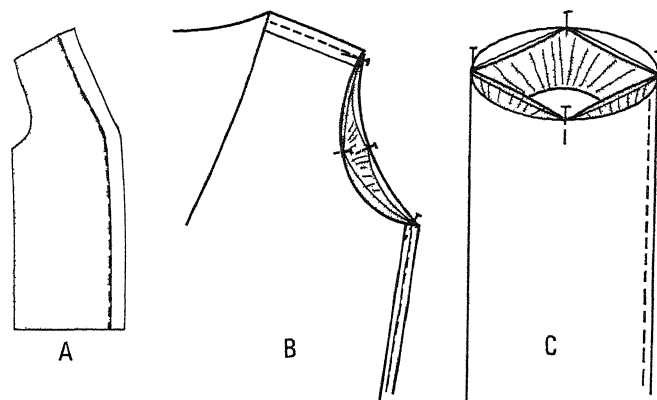


FIG. 21—Knit binding may be used on either straight or curved edges.

Another edge finish is using a double fold of fabric and seaming it in one step with the garment rather than encasing the raw edge as a binding would. Prepare the trim by planning the desired finished width. Cut strip double this amount plus seam allowances. The length will depend on the stretchiness of the fabric and the edge to be finished. For a fabric that doesn't stretch, the length would be the same as the edge to be finished. Fold trim in half, lengthwise, wrong sides together. Lay doubled trim against the right side of the garment, matching raw edges, stretching or easing it where necessary to follow the edge contour as in binding an edge. Stitch a seam through all thicknesses and trim and finish raw edges as needed or desired. Press trim so seam allowances roll to the inside.

While this method can be used on most any fabric, it is commonly used on knits such as when applying stretchy knit or rib trim to circular openings. For this type finish, the trim is shorter than the edge to be finished and it is stretched to fit the edge. Prepare the trim by cutting a strip of knit the desired width, usually in the direction of greatest stretch. A band for a lower sleeve edge might be cut six inches wide. The length will depend on the stretchiness of the knit and your size. Check to be sure the trim will slip over your hand. Adjust before cutting the trim length. Next, seam the ends of the knit trim. Double the trim with wrong sides together. Divide this into four equal sections and pin mark. Divide the sleeve opening into four equal parts and pin mark. With the garment inside out, place the prepared trim against the right side, matching the edges and the quarter pin marks. Place trim so seam is at sleeve seam. Pin at these points through all thicknesses. Stitch a  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch seam, stretching the trim in each section to fit the garment edge. Repeat with another row of stitching  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from seamline in the seam allowance. Trim away excess seam allowance near this last stitching. Press trim so seam allowances roll to the inside. See Figure 21-C.

## Mitering Bindings

### On Inside Corners

Pin and baste one side of the bias binding strip to the garment edge, right sides of the fabric together (Fig. 22-A-1). As you turn the corner, stretch the bias on the side opposite the basted seam. There will be a slight fold in the binding on the seam side (Fig. 22-A-2).

Stitch the binding to the garment. When you come to the corner, raise the presser foot, lift needle over the fold, lower the presser foot and complete the stitching. Trim away about half of the seam allowances (Fig. 22-A-3).

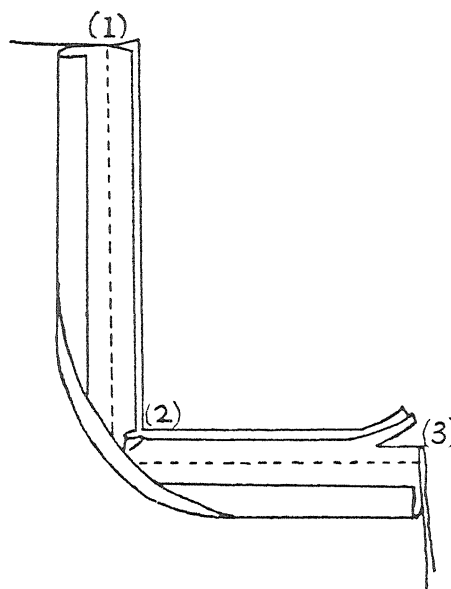


FIG. 22-A

Turn the binding over the garment edge and pin it. Crease diagonally across the binding at the corner and slip-stitch mitered place (Fig. 22-B). The extra material in the miter is not cut away for bindings. Finish sewing binding in place.

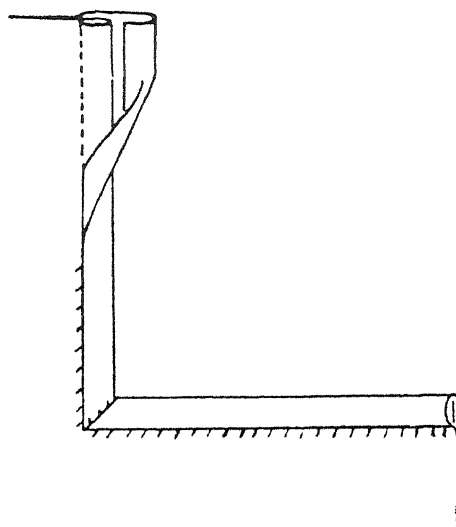


FIG. 22-B

## On Outside Corners

Right sides together, pin bias binding strip to the garment edge. Stitch exactly to the point where the two seam allowances cross. In other words, don't stitch to the end of the corner but stop a seam allowance width from the corner.

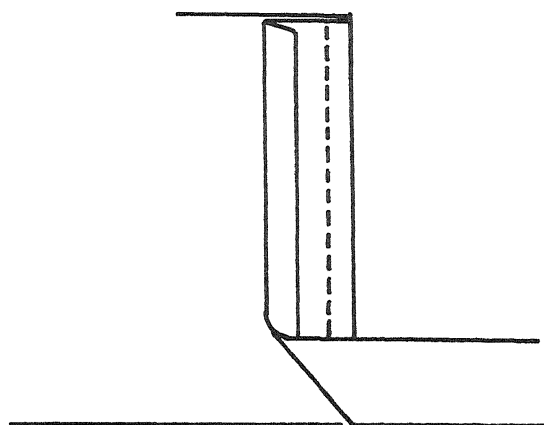


FIG. 22-C

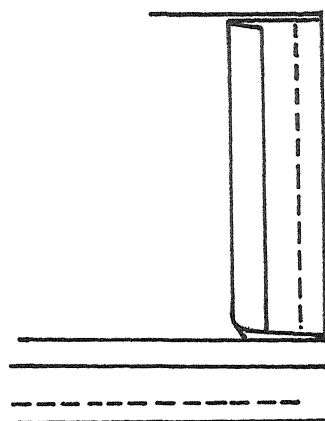


FIG. 22-D

The small pleat that is formed at the corner becomes the miter as you turn the binding over the edge. Of course, there will be no extra fabric at the outer edge of the corner. Form a miter on the wrong side. Slip-stitch miter in place. Finishing sewing binding in place. (Fig. 22-E)

Fold binding back on itself to form a right angle, resulting in a diagonal fold in the bias strip (Fig. 22-C). At the outer, or cut, edge of the garment fold the strip back on itself (Fig 22-D). Begin stitching the bias strip to the garment at exactly the same spot that you stopped stitching the first side of the corner. You can continue by letting the thread extend over the fold, by tying both sets of threads at the corner, or by stitching to the corner and backstitching on both sides.

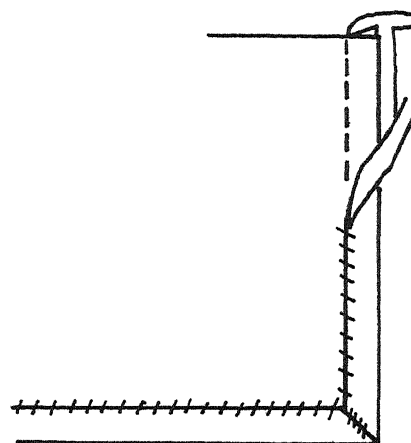


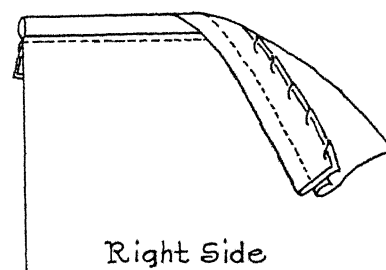
FIG. 22-E

## *Bias Pippings*

Cut a true bias strip (Fig. 14) twice the width of the desired finished piping plus two seam allowances. Fold lengthwise through the center, right side of the fabric out. Press. Insert this in an unsewn plain or lapped seam so that a narrow fold will extend beyond the seam line on the right side. For a plain seam, stitch on the seam line on the wrong side of the garment. For a lapped seam, stitch on the right side as for a plain lapped seam.

You may also use bias piping as an edge finish (Fig. 23). Make the seam allowances of the piping wide enough to form a facing on the wrong side. For a smoother finish, put seam allowance edges together and overcast.

FIG. 23—Bias piping used as an edge finish.





# All-in-one Edge Finish

An all-in-one edge finish combines several features—lining, facing and “hem”. It can be used on a sleeveless garment that is either open or has an opening in either the front or the back, such as a vest. The garment may be made to have a right side or it may be constructed so that it is reversible. The top layer and the under layer can be cut from the same pattern. If the garment is not to be reversible, trim from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the edges of the under layer. The amount depends upon the thickness of the fabric and even could be more. The trimming makes it possible for the outer layer of the finished garment to roll under slightly and conceal the seamline. It also builds in the curve necessary to fit smoothly around the body. When stitching, remember to ease the larger layer to the smaller one by keeping the larger layer next to the feed dog.

The following directions finish all edges of a sleeveless garment with a front opening. In these directions a lining and an outer fabric are used. However, both layers could be of the same fabric.

Staystitch the neckline and armhole curves in the outer garment pieces. Stitch the shoulder seams in the outer fabric and in the lining fabric. Trim the seam allowances, usually the one in the outer fabric should be wider than the one in the lining fabric— $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch respectfully. In fabrics that ravel, the seam widths will need to be wider.

Place the right side of the lining against the right side of the garment. Pin and stitch the garment and lining together at the neckline and armhole curves being careful to match the shoulder seams of the garment to those of the lining. Trim the seam allowances and clip the curves as shown in Figure 24-A.

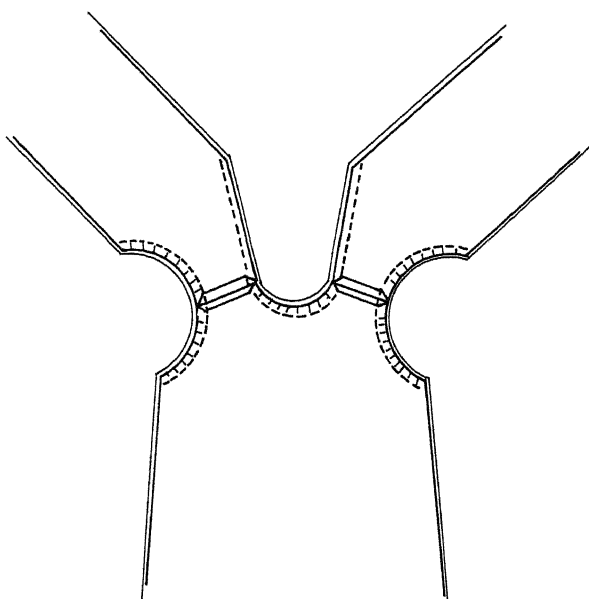


FIG. 24-A

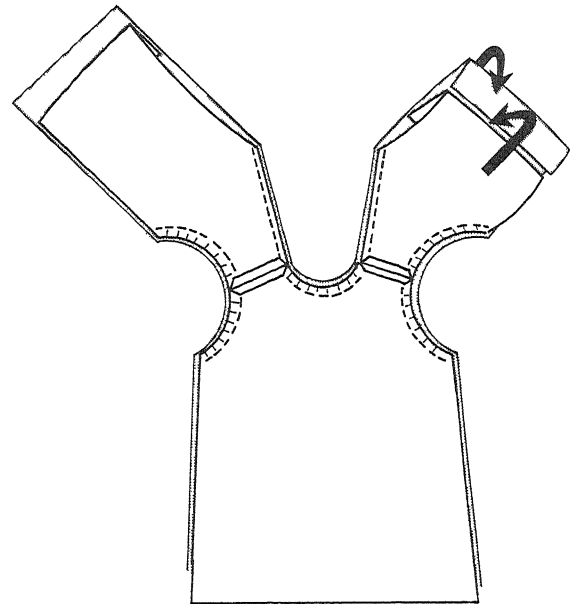


FIG. 24-B

Turn the shoulder area of the garment right side out. To do so, put both the outer and the lining layers of one side of the open front between the two shoulder seams on that side. Fig. 24-B. Do the same with the other side of the front. Figure 24-C.

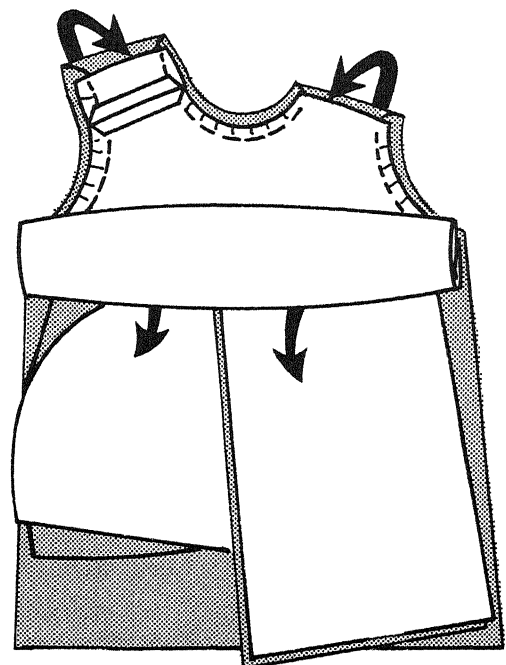


FIG. 24-C

Reach between the lining and the outer fabric of the closed back and pull both fronts all the way through. Figure 24-D. Press the curved edges.

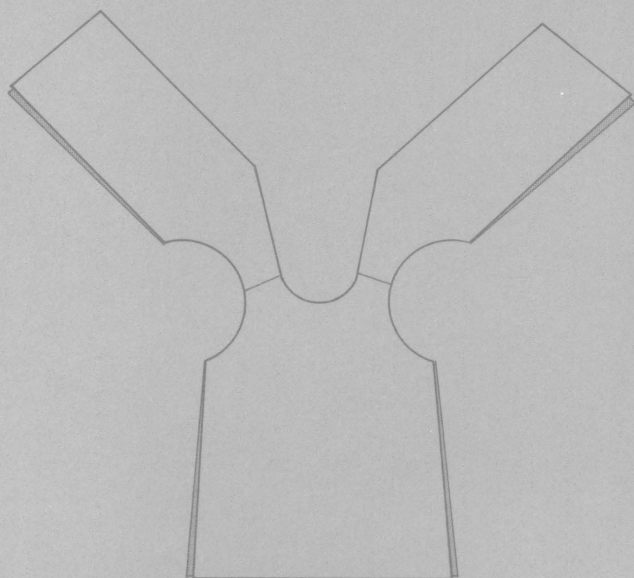


FIG. 24-D

Pin and stitch the side seams, attaching lining front to lining back and garment front to garment back. This will involve stitching a long seam with the armhole curve being in the center. Figure 24-E. On the other side seam, stitch the full length of the outer layer and over the armhole curve. Do not stitch the full length of the second lining side seam. An inconspicuous opening will be needed through which to turn the garment if and when all other edges are stitched. A three inch opening would be ample for a small child's garment. Eight inches or more may be necessary for a large garment of bulky fabric. Fig. 24-E.

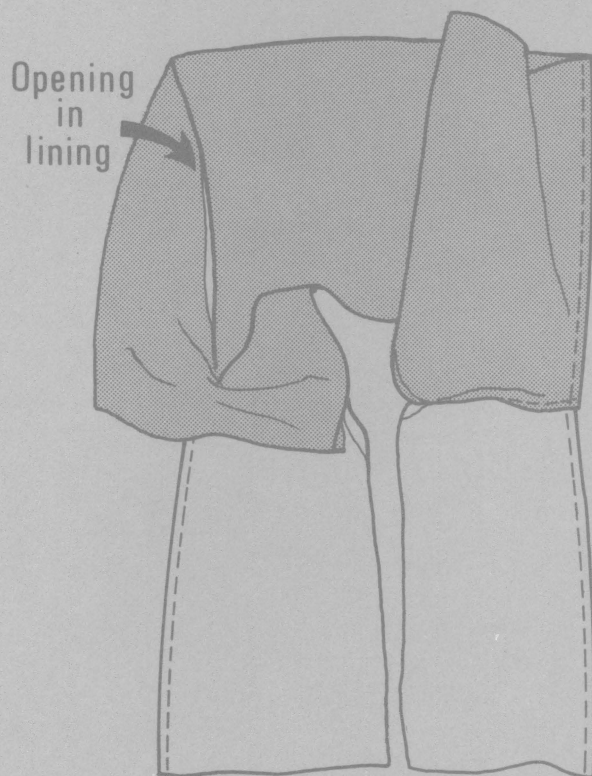
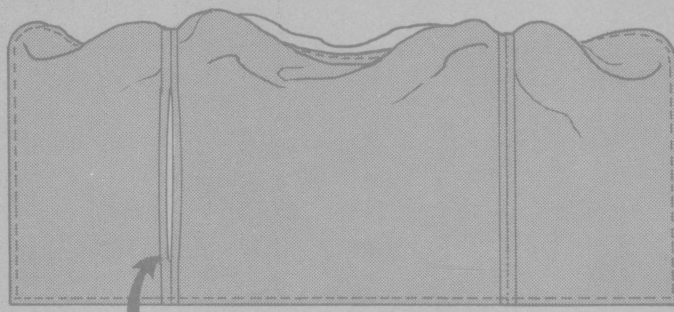


FIG. 24-E



Opening in lining FIG. 24-F

Now, turn the outer layer back over the finished shoulder portion in the opposite direction with the wrong side out. The shoulder area will be enclosed. Pin and stitch both fronts and the lower edge. Figure 24-F. Trim. Turn the garment right side out by pulling it through the opening in the side seam of the lining. Press. Close the opening in the seam by slipstitching it. Fig. 24-G.

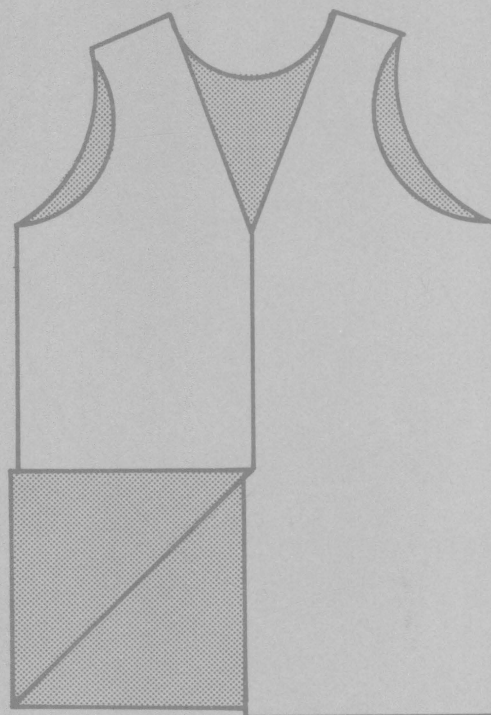


FIG. 24-G

If an interfacing or underlining is necessary to add body or to maintain shape, it can be included in the seams, too. Place it against the wrong side of the outer fabric and treat it as one layer when stitching.

If a complete lining is not desirable, an all-in-one facing can be used to finish the armholes and neckline in a similar manner to that described above. The secret is to stitch only the shoulder seams in both the facing and the garment and not the side seams before applying the facing. Remember, either the front or the back has to be open in order to use this all-in-one method. A sleeveless dress that zips up the back is an example.

# Hemming Stitches

## Machine Hemming

Machine hemming can be done on a zig-zag sewing machine or on a straight stitching sewing machine by using an attachment.

On clothes, such as children's cotton dresses and house dresses, where a strong finish is desired, machine hemming can be made to look like hand hemming (See Leaflet L-40, "Your Sewing Machine—What It Will Do.") This hemming method is speedy and easy to make if the material is firm like percale and gingham and if the hem is straight or only gently curved.

## Slip-stitch Hemming

Conceal a knot in the fold of the hem. Directly opposite this point, make a stitch parallel to the edge of the fold, catching only 2 or 3 threads of the material. Draw up the stitch. Stick needle into the edge of the fold of the hem again, directly opposite the end of the last stitch. This stitch can be from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long and it is enclosed within the fold of the hem.

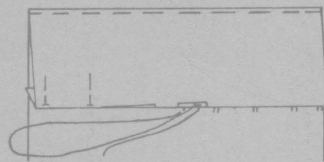


FIG. 25—Slip-stitch hemming.

Use the slip-stitch when you want an inconspicuous effect on both the wrong and right side of your garment. The stitches will be small and evenly spaced.

## Slant Hemming

Stick the needle through the crease or edge of hem to conceal knot at the end of the thread, or fasten thread with several back stitches at this point. To make a small slanting stitch, insert the needle in the garment about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch from the thread in the hem fold. Catching a few threads of the garment, stick the needle back through the edge of the hem and draw thread through. The needle slants toward

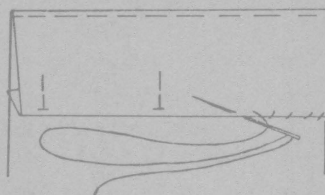


FIG. 26—Slant hemming.

the left shoulder. The edge of the hem is held toward the palm of the left hand. The stitches on both sides of the garment are small, equal distances apart, and of uniform slant. Use when you want an inconspicuous effect on the right side of the garment only.

## Catch-stitch Hemming

Work from left to right on two imaginary parallel lines that are about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch apart. One imaginary line will be on the hem, the other on the garment.

Conceal knot in fold of hem or fasten thread with several running stitches on one of these lines, then insert the needle into the opposite imaginary line far enough to the right to give the desired slant to your thread. Picking up only a few threads of the material at a time, make a small back stitch on the line. Keep your thread and needle in the position shown in Fig. 27; in other words, the needle is inserted and drawn out on the imaginary line, not above or below it. Also, the needle points in the direction opposite the way you are working.

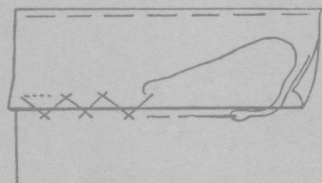


FIG. 27—Catch-stitch hemming.

Now insert the needle into your first imaginary line the same distance to the right as your previous stitches. Make a small back stitch on that line. Repeat the process, alternating back stitches from one line to the other until the hem is finished. Fasten thread at end with running or back stitches. The finished stitching gives a criss-cross effect.

## Running Hemming

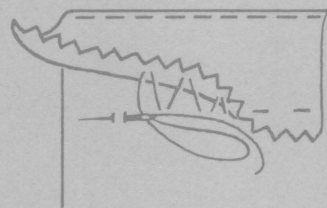


FIG. 28—Running hemming.

Hold the garment wrong side up with the lower edge of the hem away from you. Fold the upper edge of the hem back toward the right side. The upper edge may be merely pinked, pinked and stitched, or taped.

Conceal a knot under the hem in the garment. Then take a tiny stitch in the wrong side of the hem. Then take a tiny stitch in the wrong side of the garment. The stitches should be about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch apart on both the garment and the hem. They should be in an even imaginary line. Continue the same process, keeping the stitches loose. Securely fasten the thread at the end of the hem.

The hemming stitches show very little on either the right or wrong side. This method is especially good for heavy or bulky fabrics.